

Retired Army Sergeant (SGT) Douglas Kennard, SGT Kennard's father, recently said his son grew up living on military bases in the United States and Germany. SGT Kennard graduated from General H.H. Arnold High School in Weisbaden, Germany in 2002. SGT Kennard followed in his father's footsteps when he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2003. "He wanted to join the Army," Mr. Kennard said. "I am extremely proud of him. I was always proud of him."

Pamela Pleasant, SGT Kennard's aunt, said she was always proud of her nephew. "He was an awesome kid," Mrs. Pleasant said. "He had a smile that would light up a room. He was so humble. I miss him terribly."

SGT Kennard was remembered by a fellow soldier on a memorial website. "I will always remember your smile, Kennard," Sergeant (SGT) Michele Martin wrote. "He is a very special person and a soldier. He was always there for his fellow comrades. When you were down, his smile always cheered you up. I will always cherish Kennard in my heart and always remember the great sacrifice he took for this great nation and his family to be free."

A funeral was held for SGT Kennard at Mount Pelier Missionary Baptist Church in Starkville, Mississippi. SGT Kennard was laid to rest at Memorial Garden Park, which is located near Mississippi State University in Starkville.

SGT Kennard is survived by his parents, Douglas and Darlene Kennard; his brother, Jamahl Kennard; and his aunt, Pamela Pleasant.

SGT Kennard gave his life to protect our nation. His service will always be remembered.

HONORING RONALD JOHNSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the longstanding career of Ronald Johnson, a fearless leader for more than three decades in the fight against HIV/AIDS. His leadership spans numerous esteemed organizations and agencies including the Gay Men's Health Crisis, Minority Task Force on AIDS, City of New York, Presidential Advisory Council, AIDS Action, and United AIDS from which he is now retiring.

Following the Stonewall Uprising in 1969, the gay community of New York City witnessed the rising swell of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Throughout the 1980's, the number of AIDS-related deaths climbed higher each year. In 1981, amidst widespread fear and uncertainty, Dr. Lawrence Mass and Larry Kramer founded the first New York City nonprofit devoted to HIV and AIDS awareness, testing, education, advocacy, and prevention. They called it the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC).

Mr. Johnson began volunteering with GMHC in 1984, while continuing his service as the Assistant Executive Director of the University Settlement, a nonprofit social service program that assisted immigrants and low-income families with fulfilling their health, education, and housing needs. After volunteering for a few years, Mr. Johnson was invited to join the GMHC's Board of Directors.

Mr. Johnson served as Executive Director of the Minority Task Force on AIDS and in 1992

was appointed the Citywide Coordinator for AIDS Policy for the City of New York. Known for being both forceful and persuasive yet guided by facts, Mr. Johnson helped the city develop a comprehensive strategy for stemming the HIV/AIDS epidemic through proactive education, prevention, and treatment. He strengthened the city's AIDS hotline and testing programs, needle-exchange program, and housing and medical care services for AIDS patients.

By 1996, Mr. Johnson was rewarded for his efforts as he witnessed a sharp decline in New York City's HIV and AIDS-related deaths. His programs were working and he had the data to prove it. He later joined the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, where he helped design the policy thinking and best practices for the President's Emergency Plans for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Today, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I am honored to commend Ronald Johnson for his long career advocating for the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS. His service and devotion has saved lives, inspired hope, and made this world a remarkably safer and better place.

HONOR THE LIFE OF GREG WOOD

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of my constituents, Greg Wood, who passed away on October 14, 2017, at the age of 70.

In tribute to Greg, who served in the United States Marine Corps and was wounded in action during the Vietnam War, my office arranged for an American flag to be flown over the U.S. Capitol. I am so glad that our country raised the flag in Greg's honor, because Greg did so much to support and defend this country. Greg fought to protect the fundamental freedoms that our flag represents.

This Saturday is Veterans Day, when our nation pauses to express gratitude to all those who honorably served, both living and departed. The day before, I will attend a ceremony at the Park Maitland School in Orlando, where we will formally present the flag to Greg's widow, Donna. Donna was kind enough to talk to my office about her late husband, about what mattered most to him, and about how he lived his life.

Greg was many things—a Texan at heart despite spending most of his life in the Sunshine State; a well-educated man who earned a master's degree in finance; an adventure-seeker who once rode his motorcycle from the United States all the way down to Panama; a respected commercial real estate broker; a sports lover; a fisherman and a hunter; and a pillar of our central Florida community.

But, as Donna made crystal clear, Greg was—above all—a U.S. Marine and a family man. These two roles defined him. They were the core of who he was. They gave his life purpose and meaning.

In a speech that he delivered many years ago to members of the Marine Corps, President Ronald Reagan said: "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But the Marines don't have that problem."

Greg volunteered to serve in the Marine Corps in March 1966, when he was only 18 years old. After basic training, Greg was sent to Vietnam, where he served as a forward observer—directing artillery fire onto enemy targets. Working as a forward observer, especially in Vietnam, was an exceptionally dangerous job.

The Marines are famous for their bravery, discipline and toughness. Greg was a Marine's Marine—respected and even revered by his brothers in arms for his courage and commitment. Despite his youth, Greg was a natural leader of men. They followed him, and they trusted him. Some even thought he might be invincible, and did not want to go out on patrols unless Greg was going with them.

Friendships forged in war are uniquely deep and intense. Greg lost many good friends in Vietnam—and, as Donna tells us, he carried these losses with him for the remainder of his life. On some days, the memories haunted Greg, and he struggled with feelings of sadness and guilt. Like any warrior who has seen his fellow warriors fall, Greg naturally asked himself: "Why them and not me?"

Physically, as well as psychologically, Greg did not leave Vietnam unscathed. One fateful day, while out on a mission, he was shot and critically wounded—earning a Purple Heart. When Greg awoke hours later in a military hospital, a priest was administering his last rites. Although he survived, doctors told him he was unlikely to live past age 35. In a sense, then, Greg's entire life was one big case of beating the odds.

After being honorably discharged from the Marines, Greg was determined to become successful professionally and personally—in part to honor his fallen comrades who never had the chance to build a career or a family of their own. As Donna told us, nearly everything that Greg did later in life was shaped by his formative experience in Vietnam, whether for better or for worse.

One of Greg's daughters, Kristina, told me that her father loved war movies, but they always made him cry. It is clear that Greg had complex feelings about war itself, but that he cherished the American soldiers, sailors, airmen and—of course—Marines who fought these wars. It didn't matter whether they served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, or Iraq. He felt a sacred bond with all of them.

In addition to his military family, of course, Greg treasured his own family—which includes Donna, four children, and eight grandchildren. By all accounts, he was a loving husband and father, who coached Little League, served as a Boy Scout leader, and did all the big things and little things that great dads do.

So, I hope Greg has been reunited with the friends he lost in Vietnam. I hope he is happy and at peace. And I hope he knows how much his life mattered to his family and to the country he so nobly served.

TRIBUTE TO MCGWIRE MIDKIFF

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate McGwire

Midkiff of Carter Lake, Iowa for winning the Class 3A, 126-pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament earlier this year. McGwire is a student at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs in our state, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of McGwire, but his family and coaches, as well.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by McGwire demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating McGwire on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his education and his wrestling career.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF PACIFICA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pacifica, California, a sea-sprayed city in my district blessed by salty breezes, soaring shorebirds and the collective smile of residents that rivals in intensity the warmth of the sun itself. On November 22, 2017, Pacifica is a spritely 60 years old.

Residents love this town, and there's no doubt as to why. The views of the Pacific Ocean are spectacular, the shoreline is captivating. If you wish to stroll through the sand and to hunt for seashells, bring your children to the beach and spend a few hours listening to the waves and gazing at the gulls overhead or the snowy plover nearby, Pacifica is the place to be.

Although sunshine is the predominant feature of Pacifica, fog occasionally arrives. Well, actually, more than occasionally. But it is quiet and serene in Pacifica when fog shrouds the shore and the mountains.

For hundreds of years, Pacifica was home to a village of the Ohlone tribe. Pacifica's creeks and ample supply of fish and nuts fed generations. These residents lived in balance with nature, thriving on the ocean side of the San Francisco Peninsula and trading with other villages on the bay side.

The Spanish explorer Don Gaspar de Portolà arrived in 1769 and climbed the mountain behind Pacifica to a point now known as Sweeney Ridge. From that point, Portolà was the first European to discover the existence of San Francisco Bay. In the next decades, thousands followed, leading to the establishment of Mission Dolores and the creation of early San Francisco. Pacifica fed San Francisco from crops planted throughout the San Pedro Valley. In 1839, a Mexican land grant to Don Francisco Sanchez was made and it almost exactly matched the boundaries of modern-day Pacifica.

While much of modern-day Pacifica might be unrecognizable to the Ohlone or to Don Francisco Sanchez, one characteristic of those

early times would easily be recognized: families. Both in the distant past and today, Pacifica teems with families. The school district is highly regarded and has over 3,000 students from grades K through 8. Parents from biotech companies and other global corporations drive a few extra miles to work every day so that they may live in a community with quality schools and a web of soccer teams and gymnastics programs that allow children to thrive amidst friends. The annual family-friendly Pacifica Fog Fest draws tens of thousands from throughout the Bay Area to enjoy the sun, music, a hometown parade, and all of the cheese and nachos needed to earn a mother's scorn.

Civic life in Pacifica is energetic, to say the least. In recent years, the city has completed such notable projects as the undergrounding of utilities, the creation of a dog park, the commencement of a parking program at state beaches, improvements to the senior/community center, protection of environmental resources around the creeks and on the beaches, and numerous other public improvements that augment Pacifica's natural splendor.

The city's leadership is as strong today as ever, and it meets the challenges of modern governance head on. For example, City government illustrates its love-hate relationship with Mother Nature by joyfully paying to protect the snowy plover's nesting areas while scrambling to pay to prevent the erosion of bluffs to the beaches below. The council knows that if you walk along the beach near Pedro Point, you're probably walking on the sand that once existed as the bluff, a few miles north, that supports Esplanade Boulevard. Such is the duty of leadership in Pacifica where a councilmember must pay to maintain infrastructure in the coin of the realm while delivering sand and refurbished habitats for endangered species for free to the ultimate administrator of Pacifica's fate: Mother Nature.

Congratulations to the City of Pacifica upon 60 years of formal incorporation, from November 22, 1957 to the present. From tail fins on cars to shark fins in the ocean, the city has done well for itself. With its loving population and visionary leadership, there are many more adventures to come for this little place by the sea that 39,000 call home and celebrate as a place to embrace life, family and neighbors.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE AVIATION PROGRAM

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Northwestern Michigan College Aviation Program upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Through innovation, passion, and dedication, NMC Aviation has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Founded in 1967, NMC Aviation came from small beginnings with three planes and five instructors. In just 50 years, it has grown to be one of the most respected aviation programs in the country. Today, they continue to raise the bar of innovation through ground-breaking

courses and program partnerships with Michigan high schools and colleges across the world. Its instructors have real life experience, and its students have access to exceptional training and resources.

As a commercial pilot of 22 years, I know the great need for quality pilots in our global economy, as well as the dedication and skill this profession requires. NMC Aviation has proven itself to be one of the best institutions of its kind at training the next generation of pilots.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the NMC Aviation Program for its 50 years of success and community investment. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to this outstanding institution. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Northwestern Michigan College Aviation Program all the best in its future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM K. "BILL" MCALLISTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bill McAllister of Clarinda, Iowa who recently retired from the Page County Sheriff's Department with 37 years of service in law enforcement.

Bill's service to our country began as a member of the United States Army Military Police. He later began his career in law enforcement in 1980 with the Nebraska City, Nebraska Police Department, as well as graduating from the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center. He joined the Clarinda Police Department in 1982 as a patrolman and was eventually promoted to Sergeant. Bill graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and was awarded the 1987 Silver Star for Bravery from the American Police Hall of Fame. He was selected Outstanding Officer by the Clarinda Optimist Club in 1997, and that year, joined the Page County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff.

Page County Sheriff Lyle Palmer said, "Bill earned numerous certificates and attended classes every year to continue his knowledge of law enforcement. Bill had the ability to read people and he was a great benefit to the Sheriff's Department. He served the citizens of Page County with dignity and honor."

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to represent community leaders like Bill in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bill for his outstanding achievement and in wishing him nothing but the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VIRGIL HANKS

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one